

# Miami Jackson Senior High School

## COLLEGE BOUND NEWSLETTER

January, 2015

### The Miami National College Fair

*150+ colleges and universities from around the country!*

**Sunday, February 22, 2015**

Noon-4 p.m. • Doubletree Miami Mart/Airport Hotel  
& Exhibition Center  
777 NW 72nd Avenue  
Just off S.R. 836 and Milam Dairy Road

FREE Admission and FREE Information Sessions  
*Parking fee: \$5.00*

*For more information, call  
305-995-1739*

*Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or visit [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)*

*If you have a disability that requires accommodation, you may call the number listed above or call the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at 305-995-2400.*

#### **\*\*PRE-REGISTRATION\*\***

Requesting information from multiple colleges/universities at the College Fair just got easier. By pre-registering, students can print a bar-coded confirmation to be used at the fair as an electronic ID. No more filling out information cards!

**Online registration is available now!!!**

Pre-register at: [www.gotomyncf.com](http://www.gotomyncf.com) .

Sponsored by  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
National Association for College Admission Counseling



# FAFSA

Beginning January 1, 2015: FINANCIAL AID – FAFSA applications for the 2015-2016 academic year can be filed beginning January 1, 2015 by going to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) . I highly recommend that your parents finish their 2014 Federal Income Tax as soon as possible. If they are not able to complete your 2014 Federal Income Taxes before the priority deadline to file the FAFSA at your college – then I recommend that you file a FAFSA estimate using your parent’s 2013 Federal Income Tax returns. **IMPORTANT! If you use the 2013 Tax Return, you must remember to go back and update your application with the 2014 figures.**

## FAFSA WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

Beginning Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. we will welcome parents who would like assistance in completing the financial aid application (FAFSA). Please have them make an appointment with me, Ms. Ros, at extension 2111.

## Applying for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA)

<i>Attending College</i>	<i>Use FAFSA Form</i>	<i>Use IRS Income Tax From</i>
<i>Beginning Summer 2015 Then Fall 2015</i>	<i>2014– 2015 FAFSA 2015– 2016 FAFSA</i>	<i>2013 Available right now 2014 Available January 1</i>
<i>Beginning Fall 2015</i>	<i>2015– 206 FAFSA</i>	<i>2014 Available January 1</i>

Each college sets its own deadline regarding financial aid, but it is in your best interest to file the FAFSA (and any other required forms) as early as possible. Colleges have a finite amount of money budgeted for financial aid. **Students who file later risk receiving less aid as colleges approach their budget limits.**

The early bird gets the money, don’t delay filing. The ideal way to complete the FAFSA is with numbers taken from your parent’s completed federal income tax return. Unfortunately, few taxpayers complete their income tax by February (which is when some colleges have their priority financial aid deadlines).

# FINANCIAL AID 101

Financial aid carries with it responsibilities that college-bound students must manage throughout college and beyond. Students and families should take the time to learn about their financial aid options before signing on the dotted line.

There are four types of aid that can create a financial aid package:

- **Scholarships** - Students usually do not have to pay back scholarships, which award money for academic achievement, athletic ability, special talents, and more. Scholarships are often available through public service organizations, through religious institutions and local businesses.
- **Grants** - Grant programs may be federal, state, or school-sponsored. Students may receive federal and state grants based on financial need, and they may receive school-sponsored grants based on financial need or merit. Students should check with the schools they're interested in attending for more information on school-sponsored grants.
- **Work-Study** - Schools can provide students with on- or off-campus employment to help pay for college costs. Students also gain career-related, hands-on work experience.
- **Student Loans** - Borrowers must repay loans with interest. Several types of loans are available:
  - **Federal Perkins Loans and Direct Subsidized Loans** are need-based, government-subsidized loans. The government pays the interest that accrues on these loans while students are in-school at least half-time and during their grace period.
  - **Direct Unsubsidized Loans** are calculated based on your student's cost of attendance, minus other financial aid he/she receives. Interest begins accruing on unsubsidized loans from the date of disbursement. Your student is responsible for all interest that accrues on these loans. Any unpaid interest that remains at the end of the student's grace period will be capitalized (added to the principal balance) before repayment begins.
  - **Parent PLUS Loans** are federally guaranteed loans for parents who want to help pay for their student's education. Parents can borrow up to the cost of attendance, minus any financial aid awarded to the student.
  - **Private Education Loans** are available through financial institutions like banks or credit unions. They typically have higher interest rates, more fees, and less flexible repayment options than federal student loans. Loan terms and limits on Private Education Loans vary substantially by lender. Students should consider these loans only if they need additional funds after obtaining aid through scholarships, grants, and federal loans.



# REMINDER

If you haven't already done so, please go online and register for **Bright Futures** today at:

[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org).

To enter the February early evaluation, you must register before January 31<sup>st</sup>